



FEMA

Disclaimer: The purpose of this briefing is to provide a ***Regional*** weather threat assessment and is meant as a general overview. County/Parish decision makers should consult their local NWS forecast offices for the latest detailed, local weather information. To find your local NWS forecast office, go to www.weather.gov/srh and click on the "Weather Forecast Offices" tab and click on the map for your area.

FEMA Region 6 Weather Threat Briefing

Sunday, March 18, 2018
Issued: 0800 CT

Day 1 Weather Threats: Critical to Extremely Critical Fire Weather area for parts of E NM into the TX Panhandle, and W TX.

Day 1 Weather Threats: Severe storms possible for N TX, S OK, N LA, and S AR.

Moderate to major flooding continues on the Ouachita River, MS River and Atchafalaya River in N and E LA and SE AR.

Minor to moderate flooding continues with rivers receding in E TX, NW LA and S & NE AR.

National Weather Service
Southern Region Headquarters
Regional Operations Center
Fort Worth, TX



Prepared by: Brian Hoeth
817-978-1100 x 147

Key Points



Today

- **Critical to Extremely Critical Fire Weather area for parts of E NM into the TX Panhandle & W TX**
- **Severe thunderstorms possible for NE TX, N & SE OK, N LA and S AR. Hail & damaging winds are the main threat but a few tornadoes are possible.**

Tomorrow

- **Critical fire weather area for portions of SE NM into W and S TX**

Tuesday - Thursday

- **No significant weather impacts**

River Flood Status

- **Due to the operation of the Bonnet Carre spillway, New Orleans, LA & Reserve, LA are cresting and minor stage fluctuations will continue until the spillway is closed.**
- **Rises of a few tenths will occur today for Baton Rouge, LA & Donaldsonville, LA. The crests levels will be similar to January 2016.**
- **Rainfall between 1 to 2 inches is expected over the next 3 days across portions of LA and MS. This rainfall will not make any significant changes to crests on the MS and Atchafalaya Rivers but it will aggravate backwater flooding for tributaries that flow into the MS and Ouachita Rivers**

FEMA Region 6 Threat Matrix

Mar 18, 2018 - Mar 22, 2018

DAY / THREAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU
Strong/Severe Storms	N OK/NE TX/N LA/SE OK/S AR				
Heavy Rain / Flash Flooding					
Fire Weather	E NM/ TX Panhandle/ W TX	SE NM into W and S TX			
Winter					
River Flooding	N & E LA, SE AR				
	E TX, NW LA, S & NE AR				

	No Weather Threats Expected
	Very Common – Happens Often
	Common – Happens Frequently
	Uncommon – A Few Times a Year
	Rare – Once Every 1-5 Years
	Very Rare – Once Every 5-10 Years

For more details on the colors in the threat matrix refer to the last slide in this briefing.

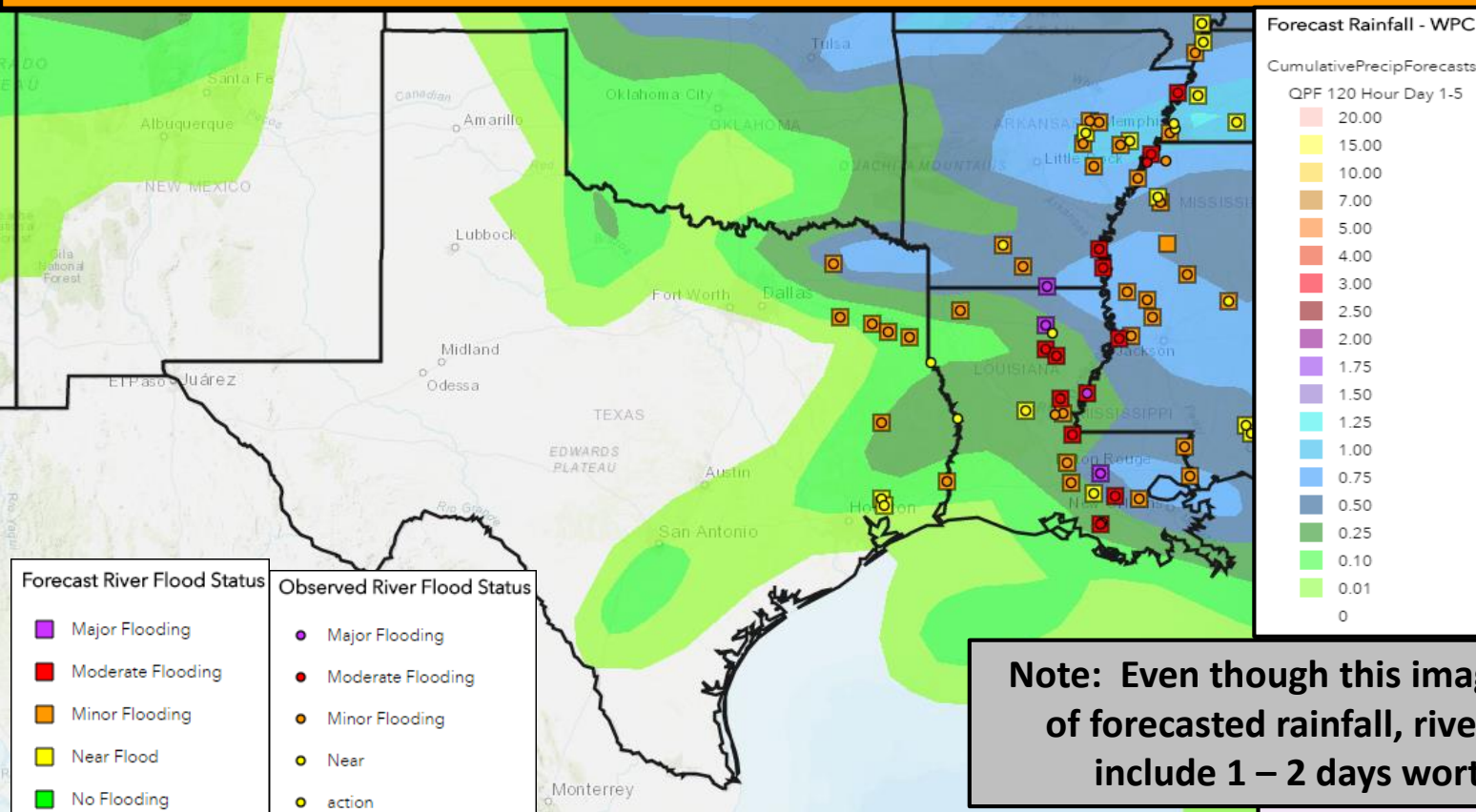


5-Day Precipitation Forecast & River Flood Status

Moderate to major flooding continues with rivers rising on the Ouachita River, MS River & Atchafalaya River in LA, SE AR:

- **Rises of a few tenths will occur today for Baton Rouge, LA & Donaldsonville, LA w/ crest levels similar to January 2016.**
- **Due to the operation of the Bonnet Carre spillway, New Orleans, LA & Reserve, LA are cresting and minor stage fluctuations will continue until the spillway is closed.**
- **Rainfall between 1 to 2 inches is expected over the next 3 days across portions of LA and MS. . This rainfall will not make any significant changes to crests on the MS and Atchafalaya Rivers but it will aggravate backwater flooding for tributaries that flow into the MS and Ouachita Rivers.**

Minor to moderate flooding continues with rivers receding in E TX, NW LA and S & NE AR.



Note: Even though this image displays 5 days of forecasted rainfall, river forecasts only include 1 – 2 days worth of rainfall.

See <http://water.weather.gov/ahps> for the latest on river flooding



Mississippi River Crest Watch

Crests and LMRFC forecasts produced morning of March 17, 2018

Lower Mississippi River Forecast

f NWSLMRFC

@NWSLMRFC

Center



★ Location of Mississippi River Crest Today ● Forecast Based on Bonnet Carré Operation



Atchafalaya River Crest Watch

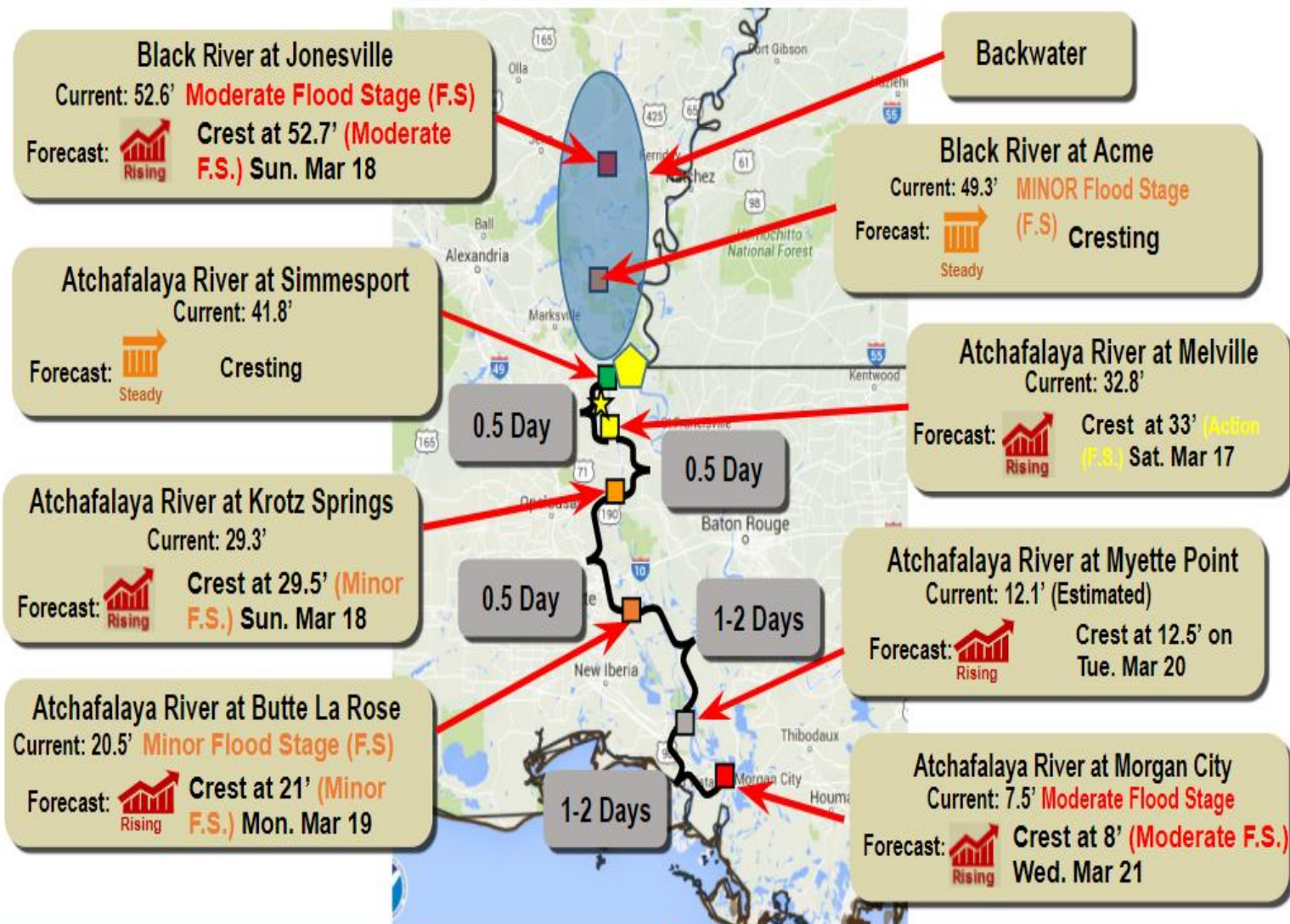
Crests and LMRFC forecasts produced morning of March 17, 2018

Lower Mississippi River Forecast

f NWSLMRFC

Twitter @NWSLMRFC

Center



Old River Control Structure

Crest Today

Backwater - Water moving upstream from Old River Control Structure



Ouachita River Crest Watch

Crests and LMRFC forecasts
produced morning of March 17, 2018

Lower Mississippi River Forecast

f NWSLMRFC

@NWSLMRFC

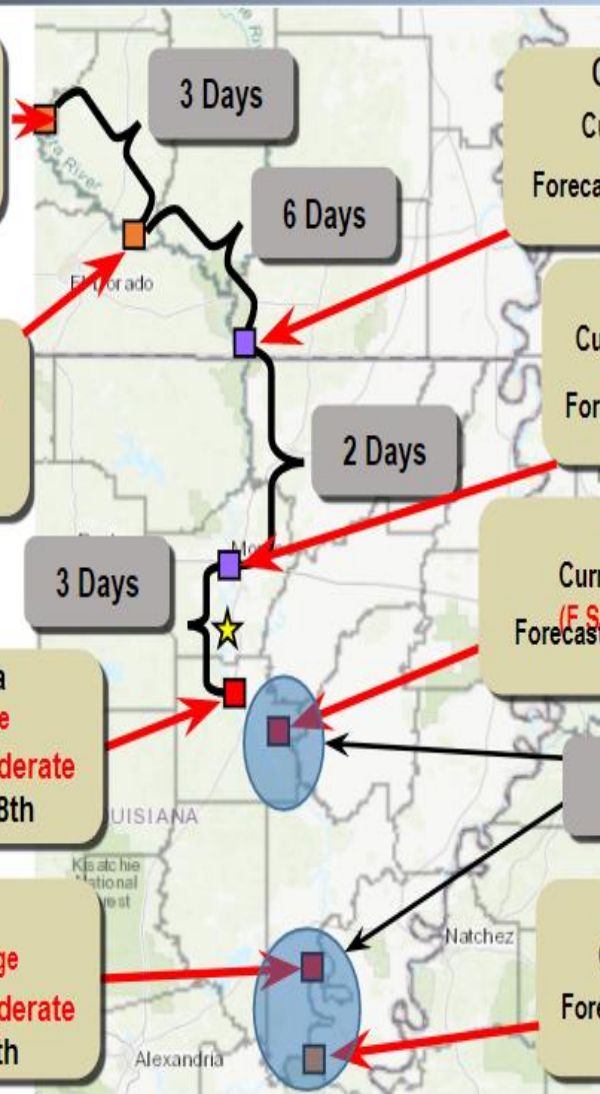
Center

Ouachita River at Camden
Current: 25.8' **Action Stage**
Forecast:  **Crest at 26.5' (Minor F.S.)**
Sun. Mar 18th

Ouachita River at Thatcher
Current: 86.7' **Minor Flood Stage (F.S.)**
Forecast:  **Above Flood Stage thru 22-Mar**

Ouachita River at Columbia
Current: 68.8' **Moderate Flood Stage (F.S.)**
Forecast:  **Crest at 69' (Moderate F.S.) Sun. Mar 18th**

Black River at Jonesville
Current: 52.6' **Moderate Flood Stage (F.S.)**
Forecast:  **Crest at 52.7 (Moderate F.S.) Sun. Mar 18th**



Ouachita River at Felsenthal
Current: 84.5' **Major Flood Stage (F.S.)**
Forecast:  **Above Major Flood Stage (F.S.) thru 21-Mar**

Ouachita River at Monroe
Current: 47.4' **Major Flood Stage (F.S.)**
Forecast: **Cresting**

Boeuf River at Fort Necessity
Current: 57.1' **Moderate Flood Stage (F.S.)**
Forecast:  **Crest at 57.2' (Moderate F.S.) Sun. Mar 18th**

Backwater

Black River at Acme
Current: 49.3' **Minor Flood Stage (F.S.)**
Forecast:  **Cresting**

★ **Crest Today**

Today's Weather

Moderate to major flooding continues on the Ouachita River, MS River and Atchafalaya River.

Minor to moderate flooding will continue in E TX, LA and AR but rivers will continue to slowly recede.

Severe storms possible across N TX, S OK, N LA, and S AR.

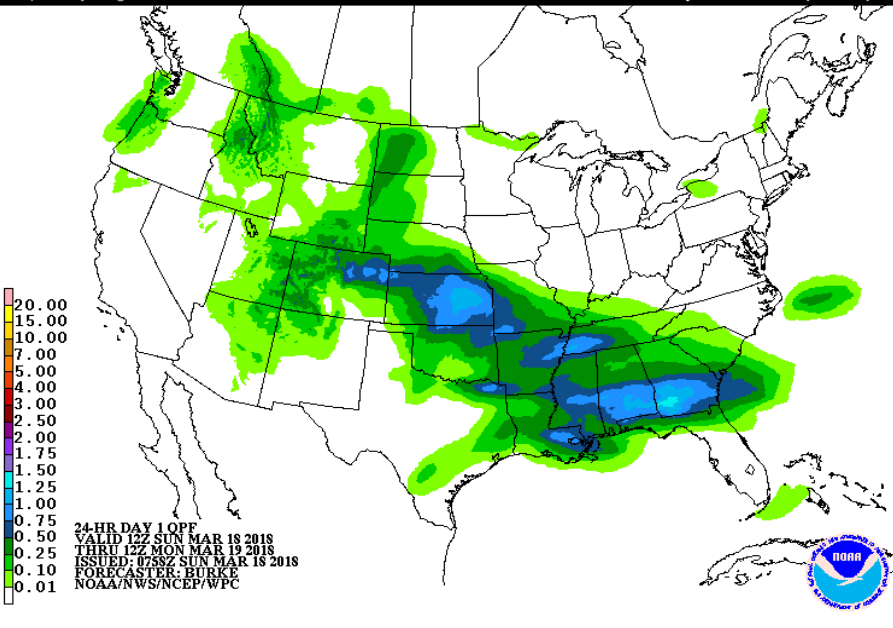
Critical to Extremely Critical Fire Weather area for parts of E NM into the TX Panhandle & W TX.



Day 1 National Forecast Chart

Valid Sun, Mar 18, 2018, issued 4:39 AM EDT
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by Kong with WPC/SPC/NHC forecasts

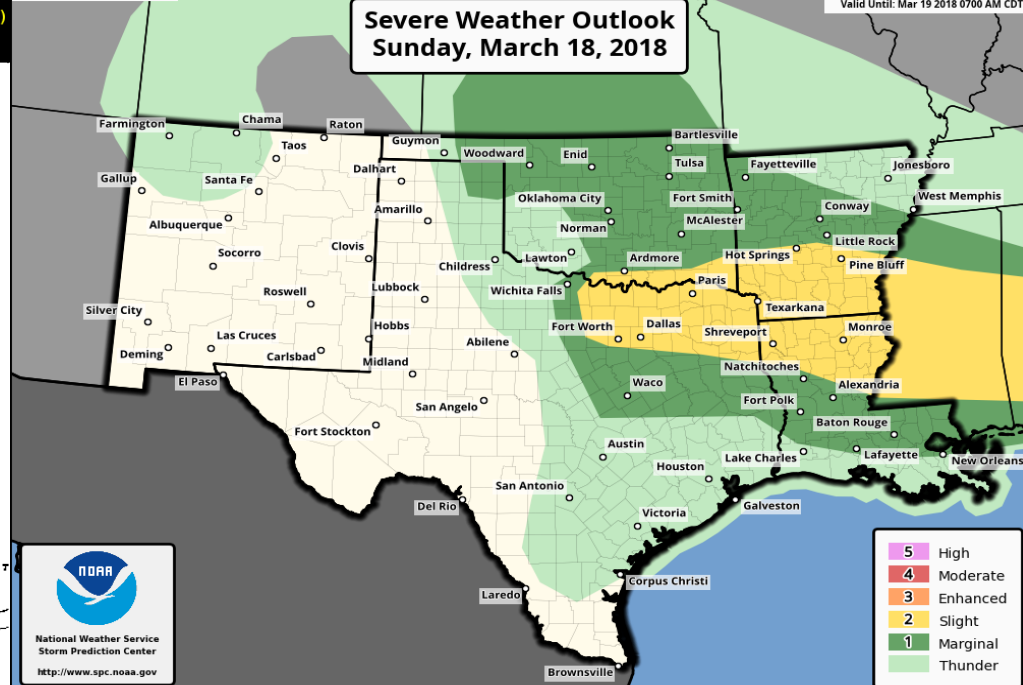
Rain
Rain and T'Storms
Rain and Snow
Snow
Flash Flooding Possible (hatched)
Severe T'Storms Possible (hatched)
Freezing Rain Possible (hatched)
Heavy Snow Possible (hatched)



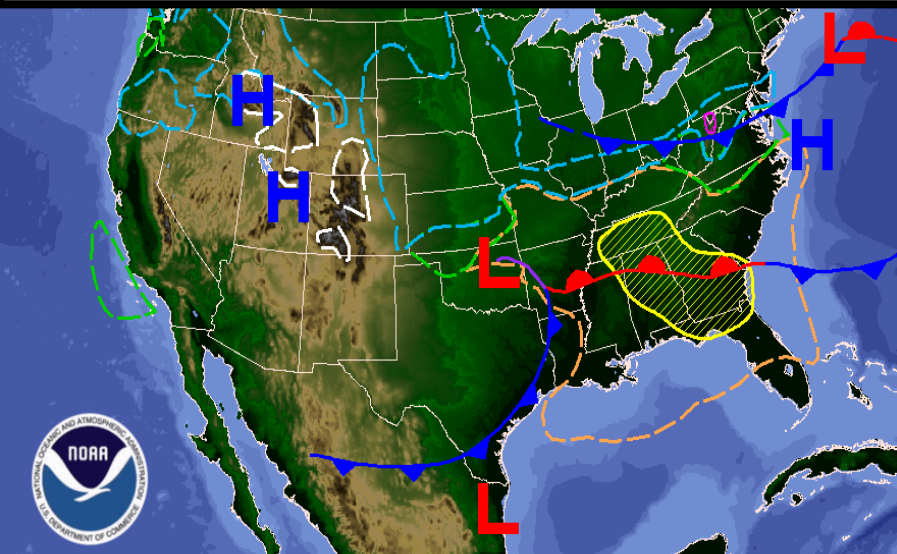
Highlighted Area: FEMA Region 6

Severe Weather Outlook Sunday, March 18, 2018

Last Updated: Mar 18 2018 0747 AM CDT
Valid Until: Mar 19 2018 0700 AM CDT



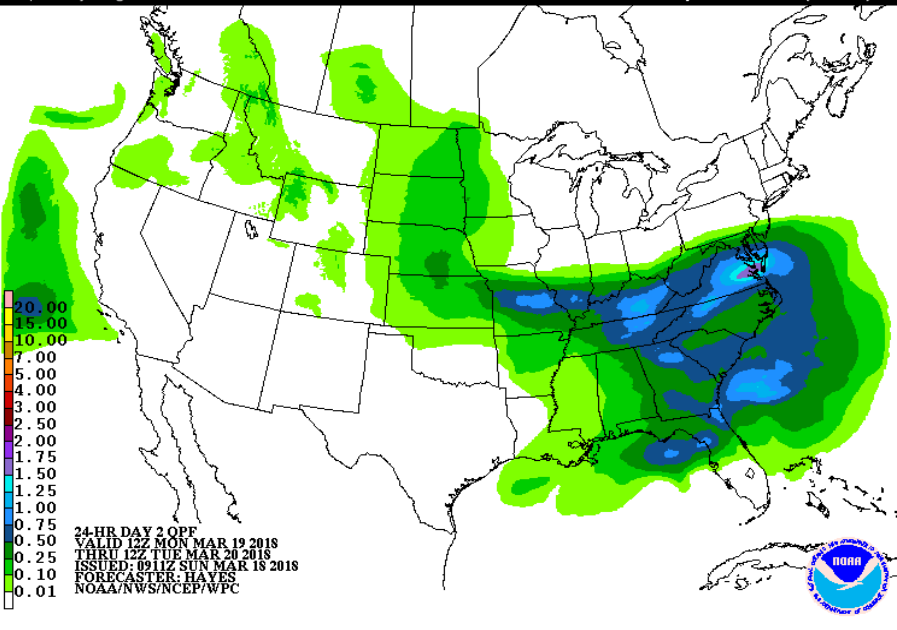
Tomorrow's Weather



Day 2 National Forecast Chart

Valid Mon, Mar 19, 2018, issued 4:54 AM EDT Sun, Mar 18, 2018
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by Kong with WPC/SPC/NHC forecasts

Rain
Rain and T'Storms
Rain and Snow
Snow
Flash Flooding Possible (hatched)
Severe T'Storms Possible (hatched)
Freezing Rain Possible (hatched)
Heavy Snow Possible (hatched)



24-HR DAY 2 OPF
VALID 12Z MON MAR 19 2018
THRU 12Z TUE MAR 20 2018
ISSUED: 0912Z SUN MAR 18 2018
FORECASTER: HAYES
NOAA/NWS/NCEP/WPC



Moderate to major flooding continues on the Ouachita River, MS River and Atchafalaya River.

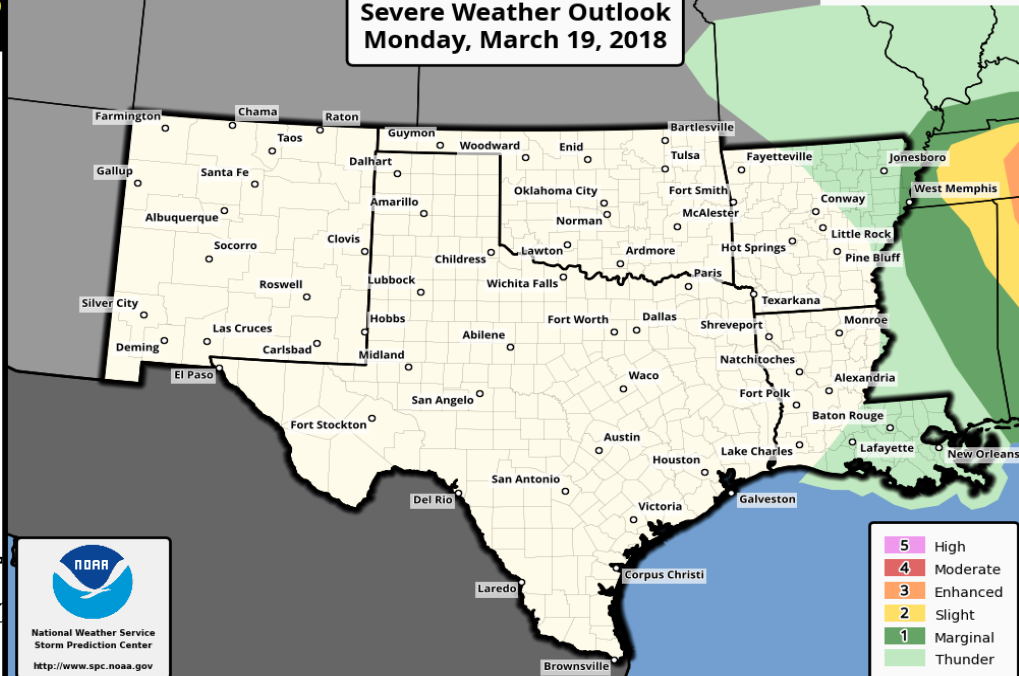
Minor to moderate flooding will continue in E TX, LA, and AR but rivers will continue to slowly recede.

Critical Fire Weather area for SE NM into W & S TX.

Highlighted Area: FEMA Region 6

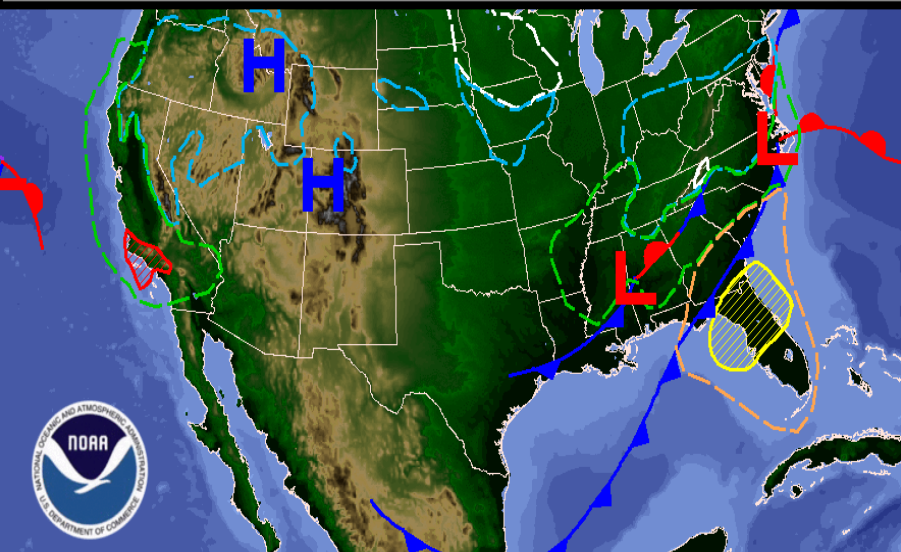
Severe Weather Outlook Monday, March 19, 2018

Last Updated: Mar 18 2018 0100 AM CDT
Valid Until: Mar 20 2018 0700 AM CDT



5 High
4 Moderate
3 Enhanced
2 Slight
1 Marginal
Thunder

Tuesday's Weather



Day 3 National Forecast Chart

Valid Tue, Mar 20, 2018, issued 5:08 AM EDT Sun, Mar 18, 2018
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by Kong with WPC/SPC/NHC forecasts

Rain

Rain and T'Storms

Rain and Snow

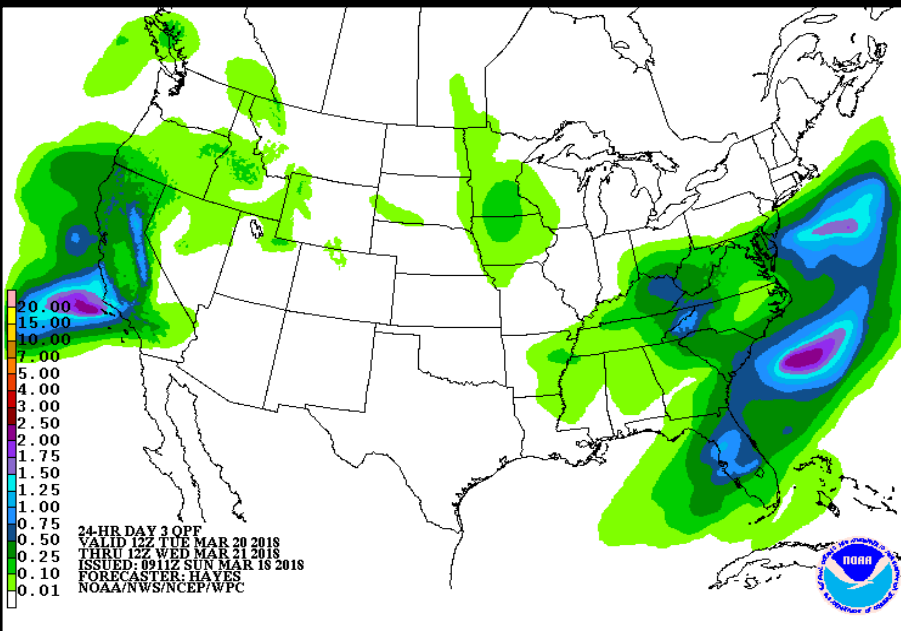
Snow

Flash Flooding Possible (hatched)

Severe T'Storms Possible (hatched)

Freezing Rain Possible (hatched)

Heavy Snow Possible (hatched)



24-HR DAY 3 OFF
VALID 12Z TUE MAR 20 2018
THRU 12Z WED MAR 21 2018
ISSUED: 0912Z SUN MAR 18 2018
FORECASTER: HAVES
NOAA/NWS/NCEP/WPC

Moderate to major flooding continues on the Ouachita River, MS River and Atchafalaya River.

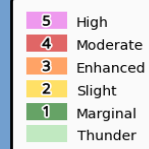
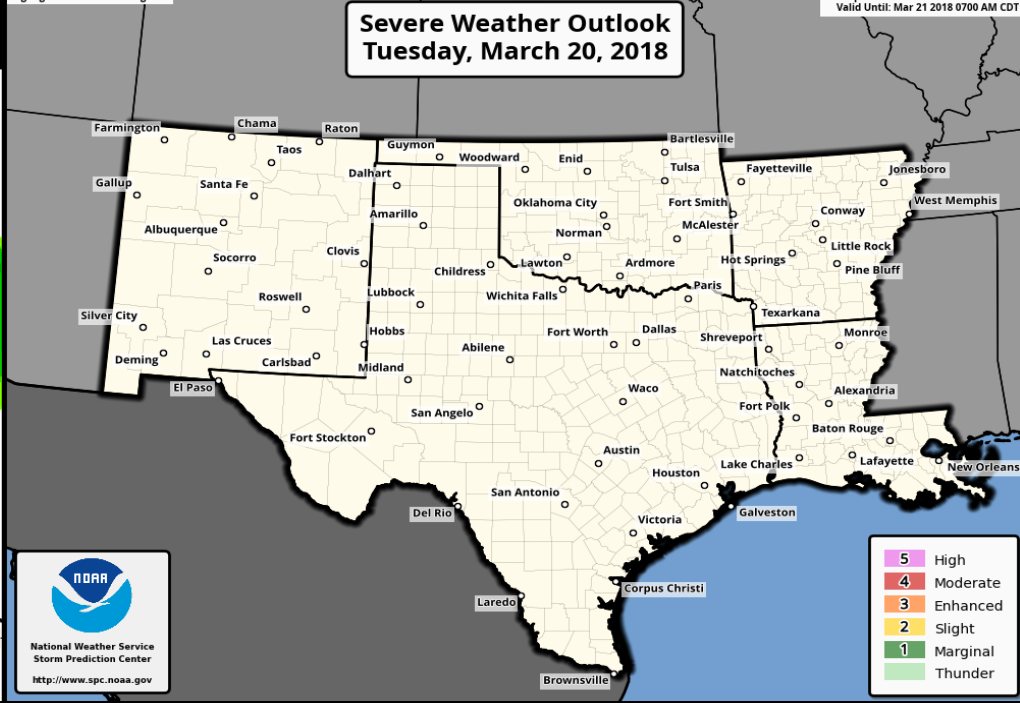
Minor to moderate flooding will continue in E TX, LA, and AR but rivers will continue to slowly recede.

No Significant Weather Impacts Expected.

Highlighted Area: FEMA Region 6

Severe Weather Outlook Tuesday, March 20, 2018

Last Updated: Mar 18 2018 0231 AM CDT
Valid Until: Mar 21 2018 0700 AM CDT

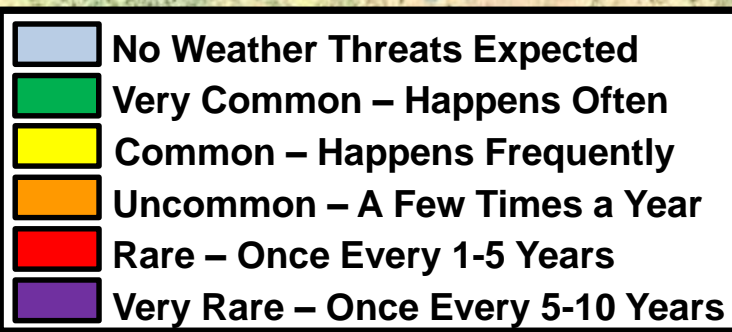


Day 4-5 Weather Hazards

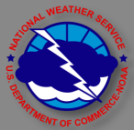
Wednesday - Thursday



**No Significant Weather
Impacts Expected.**

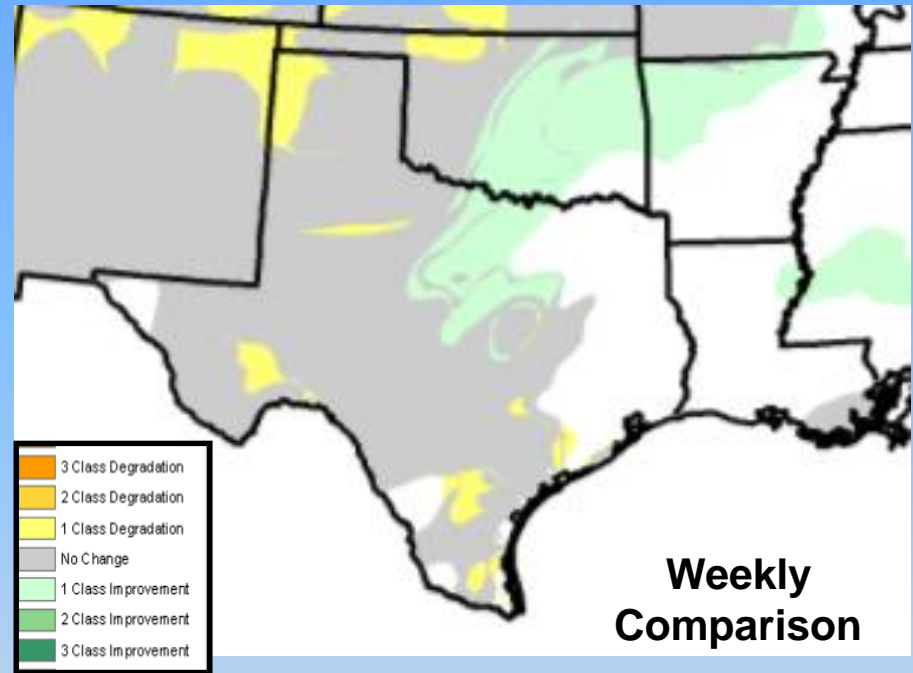
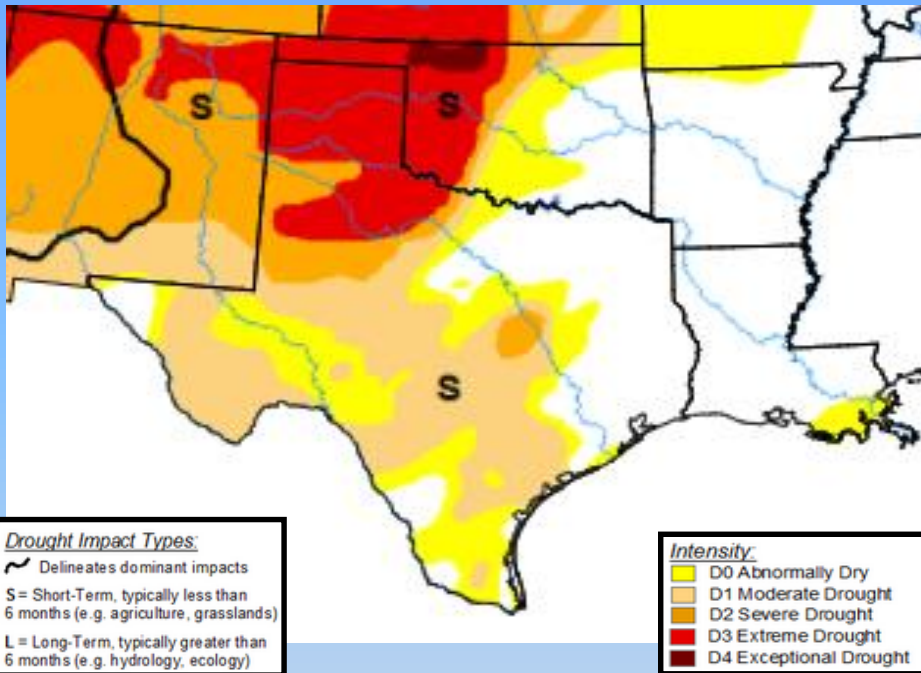


*Threat levels are based on FEMA Region 6 criteria. State or local threat level criteria may differ.



Drought Monitor Released March 15, 2018

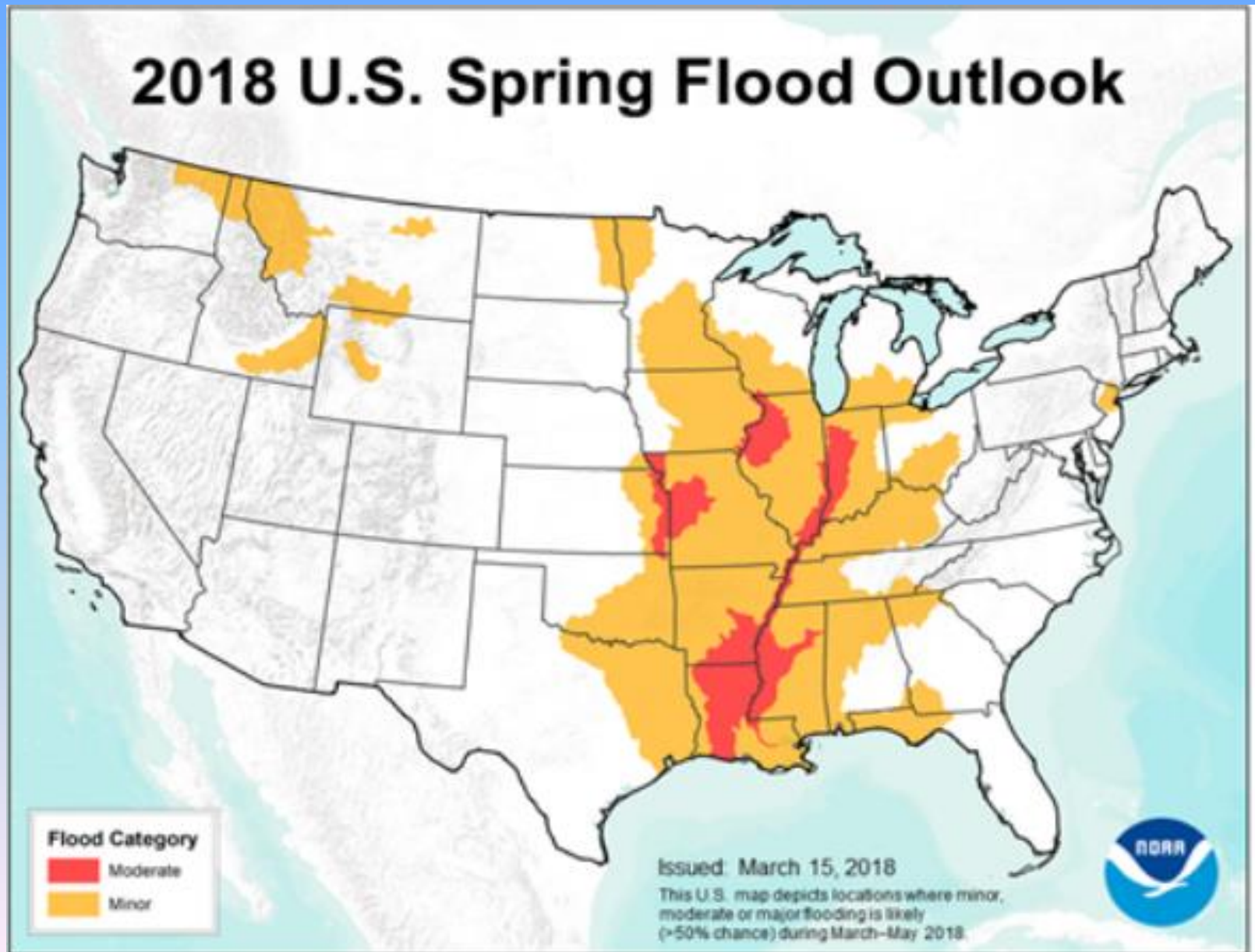
Data valid as of 6am CST, Tuesday, March 13, 2018



Drought Conditions (Percent Area) in D3-D4 (Extreme to Exceptional Drought)

State	Current	Last Week	3 Months Ago	1 Year Ago
Arkansas	0.00%	0.00%	42.40%	2.00%
Louisiana	0.00%	0.00%	7.07%	0.00%
Oklahoma	34.93%	34.45%	3.12%	3.17%
Texas	14.19%	14.16%	0.76%	0.00%
New Mexico	25.50%	17.08%	0.00%	0.00%

2018 U.S. Spring Flood Outlook Issued on March 15th



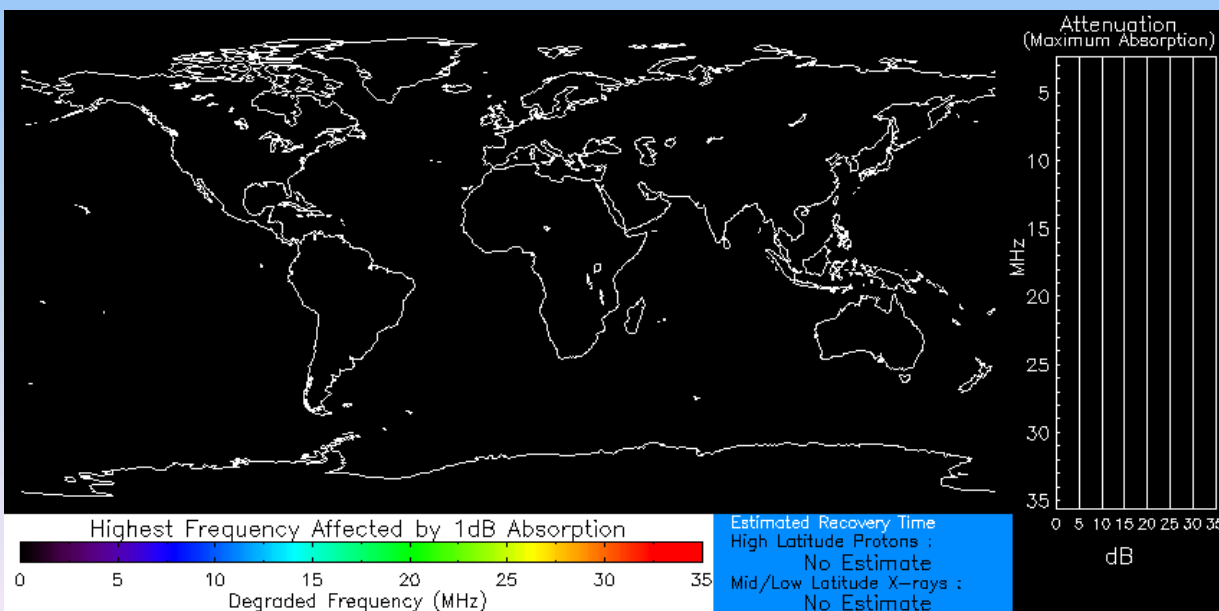
Space Weather 3-Day Forecast



[Click here for a Description of the Space Weather Storm Scales](#)

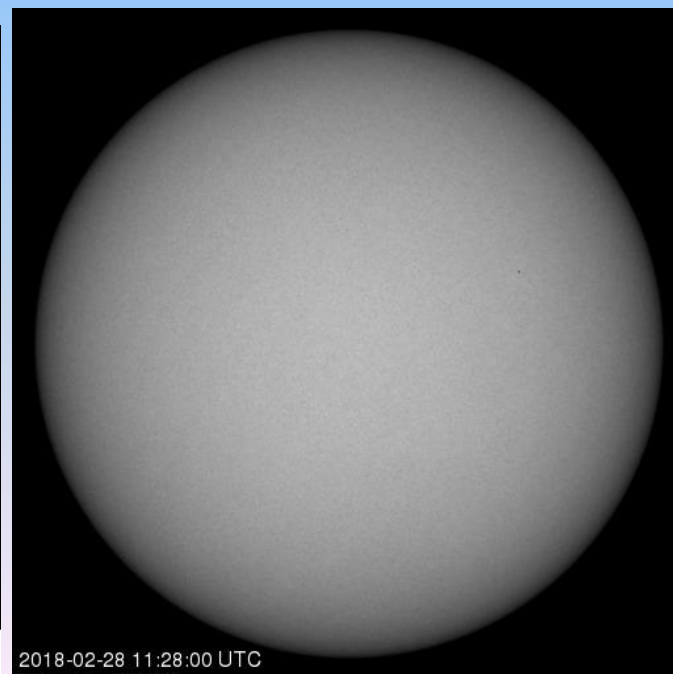
[Click here for the Latest 3-Day Space Weather Forecast Text](#)

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
Geomagnetic Storms	Quiet to Unsettled (Max Kp = 3)	Quiet to Unsettled (Max Kp = 3)	Quiet to Unsettled (Max Kp = 3)
Solar Radiation Storm (S1-S5)	1%	1%	1%
Radio Blackout (R1-R2)	1%	1%	1%
Radio Blackout (R3-R5)	1%	1%	1%



Normal X-ray Background
Product Valid At : 2018-03-18 13:01 UTC

Normal Proton Background
NOAA/SWPC Boulder, CO USA



Information provided by:



National Weather Service
Southern Region Headquarters
Regional Operations Center
Fort Worth, TX

Phone: (682) 703-3747 ***New Direct Number**
E-mail: sr-srh.roc@noaa.gov
Web: <http://www.weather.gov/srh> (**NEW link!!**)

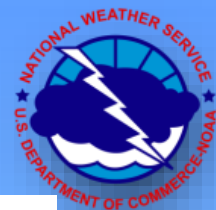
facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/NWSSouthern>

twitter

@NWS_Southern_US https://twitter.com/NWS_Southern_US

The criteria for the color codes in our briefings is below, please provide any feedback to sr-srh.roc@noaa.gov.



Weather "Threat" Matrix			
Color	Definition	Criteria	Example(s)
Green	Very Common Safety: Rarely a Direct Threat to Life and Property Impact Potential: Typically Results in Little Inconvenience to Daily Routines	Severe: Marginal Risk from SPC Flooding: Minor flooding expected over localized areas Tropical: None Fire Weather: No Watches/Warnings, fuel moisture above 10% or green up active	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thunderstorms expected over LA this afternoon; a few may produce winds to knock down a few trees Something that happens almost every day in a particular season such as <u>seabreeze</u> storms in coastal TX
Yellow	Somewhat Common – Happens Frequently Safety: Rarely a Direct Threat to Life and Property Impact Potential: Typically Results in Some Inconvenience to Daily Life	Severe: Slight Risk from SPC Flooding: Nuisance flooded expected for a widespread area, or Minor flooding expected over isolated areas Tropical: A weak tropical wave expected to move towards or near any coastline Fire Weather: Red Flag Watches/Warnings and/or SPC outlines enhanced or critical fire outlook	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2-3 inches of rainfall expected over central AR today and tonight; some minor (brief) street flooding possible Scattered severe storms possible, one or two tornadoes expected, along with reports of strong winds/wind damage and ~1" hail
Orange	Uncommon – A Few Times a Year Safety: Often Threatening to Life and Property, Some Damage Unavoidable Impact Potential: Typically Results in Minor Disruption to Daily Life	Severe: Enhanced Risk from SPC Flooding: Minor flooding expected over a widespread area (including urban locations), or Moderate flooding expected over isolated areas Tropical: A Tropical Storm expected to move towards or near any coastline Fire: Critical fire outlook for more than 2 consecutive days, Warnings for 2 or more consecutive days, D3-D4 drought conditions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A snow/sleet mix is expected to move through or near the DFW area tomorrow morning; travel impacts likely Numerous severe storms possible, a few tornadoes possible along with several reports of wind damage along with damaging hail Some large fires reported, burn bans advertised, critical conditions expected
Red	Rare – Once every 1-5 Years Safety: Extensive Property Damage Likely, Life Saving Actions Also will be Needed Impact Potential: Will likely result in Large Disruption to Daily Life	Severe: Moderate Risk from SPC Flooding: Moderate flooding expected over a widespread area (including urban locations) Tropical: A Hurricane expected to move towards or near any coastline Fire: Large areas of critical conditions for 2 or more days, Warnings for 3 or more days, Severe to extreme drought	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Category 1 hurricane will be moving towards the NW Gulf in the next few days Widespread severe storms likely, strong tornadoes, widespread wind damage, and destructive hail Large fires ongoing throughout the area with critical fire weather conditions expected to continue
Purple	Very Rare – Once Every 5-10 Years Safety: Property Damage Unavoidable, Immediate Action to Save Life will be Needed Impact Potential: Typically Results in Long-Lived Widespread Major Disruption to Daily Life	Severe: High Risk from SPC Flooding: Major flooding expected over a widespread area (including urban locations) Tropical: A Major Hurricane (Cat3 or greater) expected to move towards or near any coastline Fire: Large area of critical conditions for 2 or more days, Warnings for 3 or more days, Long term (months) of severe to extreme drought	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Category 4 hurricane is headed towards the SE LA; major storm surge, flooding and damaging winds anticipated to begin tomorrow Widespread severe storms expected, tornado outbreak probable with long-lived, very widespread and particularly intense storms